

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JUL 17 1984
date entered AUG 16 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Whites Creek Historic District

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Whites Creek ^{pkw} and Old Hickory ~~Boulevard~~ Blvd. N/A not for publication

city, town Whites Creek N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Davidson code 037

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number N/A

city, town Whites Creek N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37189

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Davidson County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Nashville state Tennessee 37201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Whites Creek Historic District is situated in a valley along Whites Creek where the Central Basin of Middle Tennessee meets the Highland Rim approximately 5 miles north of downtown Nashville. This location provides for a dramatic landscape of steep wooded slopes and a gently rolling valley where tributaries of Whites Creek come together.

The district contains 23 buildings, rural in character, dating from the 1830s to the 1950s. These include large farmhouses, modest workers' cottages, early twentieth century bungalows, outbuildings, barns, churches, stores, a bank, and a garage. Architectural styles represented are vernacular farmhouse, Italianate cottage, turn-of-the-century, Colonial Revival, bungalow, and English cottage. Building materials used are wood, brick, stone, and stucco. Only 3 of the 23 buildings are non-contributing.

The heart of the district is at the intersection of Whites Creek Pike and Old Hickory Boulevard where the stores, bank, garage, and two workers' cottages are located. The earliest structures are the Yarbrough House which dates from the 1830s, and the Bysor-Thompson House which may also date back to the 1830s. Both are examples of large Tennessee vernacular structures.

Buildings contributing to the district have historical merit and/or retain their architectural integrity. Non-contributing buildings are either fifty years old and have lost their integrity or are not yet fifty years old. The contributing or non-contributing status of each structure in the district is indicated by the letters C or NC at the end of each architectural description.

1. W. F. Teasley House (7129 Old Hickory Boulevard) 1929, one-story brick, English cottage style house with stone detailing, half-timbering and stucco in gable; three-bay brick and concrete masonry garage at left rear. C. (23)
2. James B. White House (7135 Old Hickory Boulevard) 1919, one-and-one-half-story wood frame weatherboarded bungalow on stone foundation, stone pedestals on gable end porch support battered wood columns; stone rails on porch and sides of steps; wood garage at right rear matches house. C. (24)
3. White-Tarpey House (7141 Old Hickory Boulevard) 1928, one-and-one-half-story brick, English cottage style, mirror image of 7129 Old Hickory Boulevard (20). C. (25)
4. Farmhouse (7158 Old Hickory Boulevard) ca. 1870, one-story wood frame weatherboard with simple shed porch and ell; barns behind house not in district. C. (26)
5. Yarbrough House (3831 Whites Creek Pike) ca. 1835, two-story, weatherboard, double-pen plan with each room opening onto double gallery across the front; believed to have been built for use as an inn; additions to rear of house; barn behind house is wood frame with vertical siding, gable-roof, and attached shed. C. (1)
6. Jackson-Page House (3832 Whites Creek Pike) ca. 1883, one-story, weatherboard, E-shaped Italianate cottage with limestone foundation, a simple porch supported by chamfered posts, and a standing seam roof; barn and storage sheds behind house, as well as large barn approximately 75 yards north of house along road are wood frame with vertical siding and gable roofs. C. (2)

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7. Barn (3839 Whites Creek Pike) late nineteenth century, deteriorated wood frame barn with vertical siding and gable roof. C.(3)
8. Tollkeeper's House (4005 Whites Creek Pike) ca. 1890, one-story, wood frame, weather-board, two-room cottage, unadorned with enclosed back porch; both rooms open onto simple shed front porch, tin roof, stone foundation across front, concrete block along sides and rear; served as residence for keeper of tollgate which was located at the road in front of house. C.(4)
9. Centre Star Lodge #409 (4010 Whites Creek Pike) 1873, one-story, wood frame, aluminum siding on stone foundation, windows covered over, simple porch with decorative detailing removed; built as Alex Green Methodist Church, sold to lodge in 1965 when it was altered. The integrity of this structure has not been irretrievably lost and it could become contributing if the siding was removed and porch details put back. NC.(6)
10. Alex Green School (4020 Whites Creek Pike) 1936, one-story brick, H-shaped, Colonial Revival style school house, full stone basement, arched entrance porch with dormers above, blank gabled wings on either side of central entrance with slender arched attic vents in each gable, classroom windows on side elevations; building replaced earlier wood frame school building; 1952 addition at rear and portable classroom buildings not included in district. This building will be 50 years old in two years and contributes to the character of the district. C.(7)
11. Whites Creek Church of Christ (4022 Whites Creek Pike) 1934, one-story brick on high stone foundation, shallow but wide three-bay pedimented entrance porch flanked by arches infilled with stucco and serving as signs, altered. C.(8)
12. Farmhouse (4030 Whites Creek Pike) ca. 1880s, one-story wood frame clapboard shotgun house with simple shed side porch and addition at rear; front windows altered; garage and barn behind house. C.(9)
13. Reece Thompson Residence (4104 Whites Creek Pike) ca. 1940, one-and-one-half-story brick veneer Colonial style bungalow; garage, barn and outbuilding behind house. NC.(10)
14. White-Johnson House (4125 Whites Creek Pike) 1921, one-and-one-half-story stone bungalow, front porch and side porte-cochere with battered columns on stone pedestals; barn and concrete block outbuilding. C.(11)
15. Bysor - Thompson House (4300 Whites Creek Pike) probably early 1800s, documented in 1880, remodeled 1917, two-story, weatherboard, stone foundation; simple one-story classical porch extending the length of the facade was added along with sunporch on south side and porte-cochere on north side in 1917; evidence indicates possible log structure underneath; prior to 1917 appears to have been central hall plan with ell; remodeling moved stair to new hall just behind front rooms and rooms added to the side of hall making ell shape into rectangle; subsequent den addition to rear ca. 1950; barns at rear not included in district. C.(12)

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16. Earthman House (4401 Whites Creek Pike) 1882, one-story wood frame, weatherboard, L-shaped Eastlake cottage with porch removed; stone retaining wall along front at road. C.(15)
17. Earthman Store/Saloon (4407 Whites Creek Pike) ca. 1860, altered ca. 1875, restored 1982, one-story wood frame weatherboard, late nineteenth century vernacular store, 5-v tin roof; originally built as a shotgun house; side porch extended and enclosed with interior walls removed to make large open space, room added on rear, stepped parapet and porch added on front ca. 1875; sensitively restored by owners in 1982. C.(16)
18. Whites Creek Bank and Trust Company (4416 Whites Creek Pike) 1911, one-story, limestone, rock-faced ashlar commercial building with stepped parapet on front. C.(17)
19. Whites Creek General Store (4420 Whites Creek Pike) 1926, two-story brick four-square style commercial building; triple-bay store front with transoms and simple shed porch. C.(18)
20. Gas Station (4421 Whites Creek Pike) ca. 1950, one-story brick gas station with two-bay garage and metal clad canopy for drive-through bays; currently used as sign shop. NC.(22)
21. Worker's cottage (4500 Whites Creek Pike) ca. 1910, one-story wood frame weatherboard, gabled porch with simple tripled posts and decorative wood in spaces; wood frame weatherboard garage in rear. C.(19)
22. Whites Creek Garage (4501 Whites Creek Pike) 1920s, one-story brick four-bay garage, doors replaced, windows boarded up and south facade covered with Coronado stone. Corrogated tin clad shed behind garage. C.(21)
23. Worker's Cottage (4506 Whites Creek Pike) 1920s, one-story wood frame unadorned cottage with central gable porch supported by square posts on brick pedestals. C.(20)

Vacant lots are located at (5), (13), and (14).

The numbers in parentheses correspond to the numbers on the accompanying tax maps.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1830s–1940s **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Whites Creek Historic District is being nominated under National Register criteria A, B, and C as the best representation of an architecturally and historically significant rural community in Metropolitan Nashville–Davidson County. It is a community whose rural character remains intact, while the other rural communities in the county have either lost the majority of their significant buildings or their rural integrity due to widespread urbanization. The district is significant in the areas of agriculture, settlement, and architecture. Whites Creek, one of the first areas settled in Davidson County, has maintained its rural character and continually been used for agricultural purposes since its settlement in 1780. Frederick Stump, a member of the original party of settlers to come to Middle Tennessee, settled on Whites Creek immediately upon his arrival and others joined him shortly thereafter. Whites Creek is architecturally the best example of a rural community remaining in Davidson County. Its buildings, which represent a variety of architectural styles, are rural in character and date from the 1830s to the 1940s.

In the spring of 1779, James Robertson led an exploration party of nine to the part of Middle Tennessee which would become the city of Nashville. Among these men was Zachariah White, believed to have been part of the group left by Robertson at French Lick to plant corn in anticipation of future settlers. White was killed April 2, 1781, in an Indian raid on the French Lick station where he was serving as school teacher. It is believed that Whites Creek was named for him, as he probably discovered it when he arrived as an explorer. It is also believed that he was the husband of Granny White (Granny White Pike, National Register 7/17/80; officially "Overton Lane") as it has been stated that Granny White's husband was killed in the April 2, 1781, Indian attack on the fort.

Frederick Stump is the earliest known settler on Whites Creek, arriving with his family on Christmas Eve, 1779. By 1785, Stump had acquired a land grant of 640 acres on Whites Creek. At that time he co-signed a note for the establishment of a ferry (the second across the Cumberland River) which would connect Nashville to a road leading through his land to Clarksville, opening the way for the settlement of the area. Stump is a key figure in the history of the region due to his extensive land ownership and his role as businessman, farmer, master miller, distiller, and tavern keeper (Frederick Stump House, National Register 4/2/73).

Other settlers began acquiring land in Whites Creek after 1785 and the area quickly developed into one of Nashville's earliest communities. Early community organizations were Hoopers Methodist Church, established between 1788–90; and Whites Creek Baptist Church, begun in 1797. The Whites Creek Temperance Society was chartered in 1818 and played a leading role in community life throughout the 1800s.

The Whites Creek Turnpike Company was organized and began to construct a turnpike in 1830, completing the road fourteen years later. In 1849, the Buena Vista Turnpike Company began; that road was completed around 1857.

In 1872, the Alex Green Methodist Church was formed from the merging of two churches in the area. It was named for a prominent Middle Tennessee Methodist leader from Whites Creek. Alex Green Methodist merged with another church in 1965, and built a new facility.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 157 acres

Quadrangle name Whites Creek, TN and

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References Nashville, West, TN

A	<u>1 6</u>	<u>5 1 5 5 9 0</u>	<u>4 0 1 3 6 2 0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1 6</u>	<u>5 1 5 7 1 0</u>	<u>4 0 1 1 2 0 0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1 6</u>	<u>5 1 5 1 4 0</u>	<u>4 0 1 1 6 8 0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D	<u>1 6</u>	<u>5 1 5 0 3 0</u>	<u>4 0 1 3 3 4 0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
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state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elissa Tuleen, Public Information Representative
John H. Compton, Historic Preservationist

organization Metropolitan Historical Commission date April, 1984

street & number 701 Broadway, Suite B-20 telephone 615/259-5027

city or town Nashville state Tennessee 37203

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert E. Hoyer

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 7/12/84

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Elleanor Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 8-16-84

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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In 1870, Masons from the area formed the Centre Star Lodge. They built the General Store in 1926 and held meetings upstairs until 1965, when they purchased the Alex Green Church building and remodeled it for their purposes.

The Whites Creek Post Office was established in 1877. In 1880 the community opened a school, which was bought by the county in 1887 and named for Alex Green.

Captain John Earthman, of a pioneer family prominent in Whites Creek, led the Whites Creek Volunteers to battle in the Civil War. In 1881, W.W. Earthman arrested a member of the Jesse James gang in the Earthman Saloon, and used the reward money to build his house next door.

James B. White, proprietor of the General Store, formed the Whites Creek Bank and Trust Company with five other men in 1911. The bank survived the depression and began to prosper with the area dairy farms and the industrialization of the county. In 1948 the bank had holdings of over one million dollars and a new building was constructed, turning the old building over to the Post Office, which was located there until the 1960s. Chairman of the Board W.F. Teasley, employed there since 1926, sold the bank to First Tennessee Bank in 1972.

Whites Creek has thrived as an agricultural community since its settlement. In the nineteenth century, the district consisted of several plantations. Corn, small grains, and vegetables were the main crops grown until the 1920s. About that time, dairy farming became the predominant agricultural activity. Thompson's Country Maid Dairy was the best known of these dairies which operated into the 1950s. Since then, area farmers have concentrated on beef cattle, soybeans, and market products.

While Whites Creek has lost many of its historic buildings, there remains a good concentration of significant buildings which reflect the character of a rural community which has evolved over two centuries and yet has never lost that character. Unlike many of the other rural communities which surrounded Nashville, Whites Creek was by-passed by the extensive suburban development that has covered the majority of Davidson County.

The buildings of Whites Creek represent a wide variety of architectural styles, ranging from the nineteenth century Tennessee Vernacular styles to the revival styles of the early twentieth century. The Yarbrough House is an excellent example of a Tennessee vernacular structure designed for use as an inn. The farmhouse at Old Hickory Boulevard is a good example of a small vernacular farmhouse.

The Bysor-Thompson House combines the massing of the vernacular style with turn-of-the-century style detailing.

The Victorian era is represented by the simply styled Italianate Jackson-Page House, the vernacular Victorian Earthman Store/Saloon, and the Eastlake Earthman House.

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The turn-of-the-century style is illustrated by the Bysor-Thompson House, as mentioned previously, with its alterations. The Whites Creek Bank and the General Store are good commercial examples of this style. The White-Johnson House and the James B. White House are excellent representatives of the bungalow style, as are the two smaller, simpler worker's cottages at 4500 and 4506 Whites Creek. Whites Creek has several structures designed in the revival styles of the early twentieth century.

The Teasley House and the White-Tarpey House are mirror images designed in the English Cottage style, and Alex Green School is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style.

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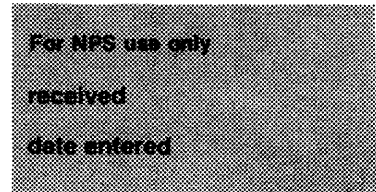
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- Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Schools. A Bicentennial Chronicle. 1976.
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The boundaries for the Whites Creek Historic District were chosen to include all possible contributing buildings in the area and to exclude as many non-contributing buildings as possible. Open space around and between the structures was included in order to convey the rural character of the district.

The Whites Creek Historic District begins at a point on Whites Creek Pike where the southern property line of parcel 49-305 intersects it and runs along the eastern right-of-way line of the pike to the center of Whites Creek where it then turns northward, running with the center of the creek, to a point 120 feet south of the northern property line of parcel 49-199, then turning westward and running parallel to said line to the western property line of parcel 49-199, then turning northward and running to the corner of said parcel, then turning westward, crossing Whites Creek Pike and running along the southern line of parcel 49-45 to its corner, then turning northward and running along the western property line of said parcel, crossing parcel 49-44 in a straight line from parcel 49-45's northwestern corner to 49-43's southwestern corner, along the western line of parcel 49-43 to its northwestern corner, then turning westward and running along the southern property line of parcel 49-42 to a point 425 feet from the western boundary of the Whites Creek Pike right-of-way, then turning northward and running in a line parallel to said right-of-way through parcels 49-42, 49-41, and 40-46 to its northern property line, then running eastward along said property line to the western right-of-way of Whites Creek Pike, then turning northward and running along said right-of-way to the southeastern corner of parcel 40-42, turning westward and running along the southern property line of said parcel to its western corner, then turning northward and running along the western property lines of parcels 40-41, 40-6, and 40-5, then turning eastward and running along the northern property lines of parcels 40-5 and 40-138 to its northeastern corner, then turning northward and running in a straight line between said corner and the northeastern corner of parcel 40-14 and on to the northwestern corner of parcel 40-15, then turning eastward and running along the northern property lines of parcels 40-15, 40-16, and 40-17 and continuing along the R15 zoning boundary to the eastern property line of parcel 40-17, then turning southward and running along the eastern property lines of said parcel, crossing Old Hickory Boulevard to its southern right-of-way line, then turning eastward and running 200 feet along said right-of-way, then turning southward and running 200 feet at a 90° angle to said right-of way into parcel 40-51, then turning westward and running 500 feet parallel with Old Hickory Boulevard, then turning northward and running at a 90° angle to Old Hickory Boulevard to its southern right-of-way line, then turning eastward and running along said right-of-way to the CS zone line, then turning southward and running along said line through parcels 40-47 and 40-48 to its southern property line, then turning eastward and running along said line to its southeastern corner in Earthman Fork, then turning southward and running along Earthman Fork to its intersection with Whites Creek, then running southward along Whites Creek to the northwestern corner of parcel 49-198, then turning eastward and running along the northern property line of said parcel to its intersection with the eastern flood plain line of Whites Creek, then turning southward and running along said flood plain line to its intersection with the R15 zone line, then turning southeastward and running along said line to the eastern property line of parcel 49-305, then turning westward and running along said property line to the beginning.